

## Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 MC-02 ACDA-07 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /084 W

----- 049978

R 080600Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8746

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMTM DHAHRAN SAUDI ARABIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 2738

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, YE

SUBJECT: FRENCH ARMS SALE TO YAR

1. FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO SANA TOLD CHARGE AUGUST5, THAT  
"NO DEALS FOR ARMS FOR YAR WERE CURRENTLY BEING NEGOTIATED  
WITH EITHER YAR OR SAUDI ARABIA." HE SAID HE CERTAIN OF  
THIS EVEN THOUGH ARMS QUESTIONS ARE HANDLED IN PARIS BY  
DEFENSE PERSONNEL AND HE LEARNS OF SUCH MATTERS ONLY  
INDIRECTLY.

2. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT ONLY MOTIVE FOR FRENCH SALES HERE  
WAS COMMERCIAL. FRANCE, HE SAID, HAD NO INTEREST IN  
DISPLACING SOVIETS OR SUPPORTING SAUDIS' REGIONAL  
AMBITIONS. THERE WAS EQUALLY NO DESIRE TO COMPETE WITH  
USG IN YEMEN. "THE ONLY REASON TO SEEL MIRAGES IS TO  
SELL MIRAGES."

3. HE SAID THT HE DID NOT THINK THAT HE WOULD BE IN  
GOOD POSITION, DUE COMMERCIAL RIVALRY AND LACK OF  
INFORMATION, TO DISCUSS FRENCH ARMS SALES WITH OTHER  
EMBASSIES INSANA, BUT THOUGHT THAT SUCH AN EXCHANGE  
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MIGHT BE POSSIBLE IN PARIS.

4. HE SAID, IN ANY CASE, LAST TO HEAR OF ANY DEAL WOULD BE YEMENIS. WHEN SAUDIS SIGNED AGREEMENT TO SUPPLY AML (AN ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIER) YEMENIS FOUND OUT ABOUT IT WEEK LATER THROUGH FOREIGN PRESS.

5. HE WENT ON, HOWEVER, YEMENIS HAVE CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN MIRAGE AND THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE GET SOME OLDER MODELS FROM FRENCH AIR FORCE ON RELATIVELY SHORT NOTICE.

COMMENT: IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF, IN COURSE OF OTHER ROUTINE CONTACTS, EMBASSY JIDDA OR PARIS OR USMTM DHAHRAN COULD SURFACE SOME INFORMATION ON FRENCH SALES TO YAR. RANSOM

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Draft Date:** 08 AUG 1976  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** coburnhl  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Film Number:** D760305-0463  
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